

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A public access multifunction device comprising:
 - a marking engine;
 - a scanning engine;
 - a controller controlling the marking and scanning, engines;
 - a printing service module in communication with the marking engine and a controller, the printing service module, in response to instructions from the controller, receiving print data from the controller and employing the marking engine to produce hard copy of print data;
 - a scanning service module in communication with the scanning engine and the controller, the scanning service module, in response to instructions from the controller, receiving scanned data from the scanning engine and transmitting it to the controller;
 - a copying service module in communication with the scanning engine and the marking engine, the copying service module accepting input from the scanning engine and reproducing the scanning engine input with the marking engine to produce a hard copy of the scanning engine input;
 - at least one data port responsive to the controller through which the device can accept and transmit data;
 - a storage medium responsive to the controller on which the device can store print and scanning data, as well as other files required for its operation;
 - a payment acceptance module.

2. The device of claim 1 further comprising a fax transmission engine and a fax module controlled by the controller and in communication with the scanning engine and the fax transmission engine, the fax module accepting input from the scanning engine and transmitting the scanning engine input as a fax via the fax transmission engine.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the at least one data port further comprises at least one audio input port and an audio data handler module controlled by the controller and comprising a UI with a plurality of elements representing different audio functions.

4. The device of claim 3 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents telephone communication, the device further comprising a telephone module in communication with the audio data handler module, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the telephone module, and the telephone module sends the audio over a telephone connection.

5. The device of claim 3 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents voice-over-IP communication, the device further comprising a voice-over-IP module in communication with the audio data handler module, which accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the voice-over-IP module, which sends the audio over an IP connection.

6. The device of claim 3 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents audio file creation, the device further comprising an audio file creation module in communication with the audio data handler module, which accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the audio file creation module, which encodes the audio data and stores it in a file.

7. The device of claim 3 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents voice authentication and the device further comprises a voice authentication module responsive to the controller and in communication with the audio data handler to accept voice input for authentication.

8. The device of claim 3 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents voice navigation and the device further comprises a voice navigation module responsive to the controller and in communication with the audio data handler to accept voice input for voice navigation.

9. The device of claim 8 wherein voice navigation traverses a UI of the device.

10. The device of claim 9 wherein voice navigation further traverses manipulation of data within modules of the device.

11. The device of claim 1 wherein the at least one data port further comprises at least one video input port and a video module controlled by the controller and comprising a UI with a plurality of elements representing different video functions.

12. The device of claim 11 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents videoconferencing, the device further comprising a videoconferencing module in communication with the video module, the video module accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the telephone module, and the videoconferencing module sends the video to a videoconference.

13. The device of claim 11 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents video file creation, the device further comprising a video file creation module in communication with the video module, which accepts video input from the at least one video input port and sends it to the video file creation module, which encodes the video data and stores it in a file.

14. The device of claim 1 wherein the at least one data port includes wireless data port.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein the wireless data port comprises a BlueTooth™ port.

16. The device of claim 14 wherein the wireless data port comprises an IEEE 802.11 port.

17. The device of claim 14 wherein the wireless data port comprises an infrared communications port.

18. The device of claim 14 wherein the wireless data port can interact with a compatible wireless data port of another device.

19. The device of claim 18 wherein the controller forms a wireless network between the device and the another device via the wireless data port and the compatible wireless data port.

20. The device of claim 1 wherein the at least one data port comprises a serial data port and the controller communicates with another device via the serial data port and a compatible serial data port of the another device to act like a serial peripheral of the another device.

21. The device of claim 1 wherein the at least one data port comprises an Ethernet port.

22. The device of claim 21 wherein the controller forms a network with another device via the Ethernet port and a compatible Ethernet port of the another device.

23. The device of claim 1 wherein the at least one data port comprises a parallel interface data port and the controller communicates with another device via the parallel interface data port and a compatible parallel interface data port of the another device to act like a parallel interface peripheral of the another device.

24. The device of claim 1 further comprising an optical disc drive that can accept user optical media and read data therefrom.

25. The device of claim 24 wherein the optical disc drive further comprises a burn mode in which the optical disc drive can burn data onto optical media.

26. The device of claim 25 wherein the optical media is user-supplied.

27. The device of claim 25 further comprising an optical media dispensary and at least one UI element offering a user the ability to purchase optical media onto which the user can have selected data burned.

28. The device of claim 1 further comprising an Internet access module with which a user can navigate the Internet.

29. The device of claim 1 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises an interface with an online payment service.

30. The device of claim 1 wherein the payment acceptance module comprise a currency acceptor.

31. The device of claim 1 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises a credit card reader and charge authorization module.

32. The device of claim 1 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises an interactive account creation and maintenance interface in which a user can create an account including payment information.

33. The device of claim 32 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises user authorization to use an existing account.

34. The device of claim 1 further comprising at least one video display device on which the controller displays UI elements to interact with users, as well as data requested for display by users.

35. The device of claim 34 wherein the controller displays advertisements on the at least one video display device during periods when the device is not in use.

36. The device of claim 34 wherein the at least one video display device comprises a touch sensitive display that is also a GUI input device.

37. A public access multifunction device comprising:

a controller;

a marking engine and a scanning engine responsive to the controller;

printing, scanning, and copying service modules in communication with the marking and scanning engines and responsive to the controller;

the printing service module receiving print data from the controller and employing the marking engine to produce hard copy of print data;

the scanning service module receiving scanned data from the scanning engine and transmitting it to the controller;

the copying service module accepting scanned data from the scanning engine and reproducing the scanned data with the marking engine to produce a hard copy of the scanning engine input;

at least one data port responsive to the controller through which the device can accept and transmit data, the at least one data port comprising:

- at least one user detector;
- at least one audio input port;
- at least one audio output port;
- at least one video input port; and
- at least one networking port;

a storage medium responsive to the controller on which the device can store print and scanning data, as well as other files required for its operation.

38. The device of claim 37 further comprising a fax transmission engine and a fax module controlled by the controller and in communication with the scanning engine and the fax transmission engine, the fax module accepting input from the scanning engine and transmitting the scanning engine input as a fax via the fax transmission engine.

39. The device of claim 37 further comprising an audio data handler module controlled by the controller and responsive to a UI with a plurality of elements representing different audio functions.

40. The device of claim 39 wherein the at least one data port further comprises at least one telephone service connection and at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents telephone communication, the device further comprising a telephone module in communication with the audio data handler module and the telephone service connection, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the telephone module, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the telephone module and sends it to the at least one audio output port, and the telephone module sends and receives the audio over a telephone connection.

41. The device of claim 39 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents voice-over-IP communication, the device further comprising a voice-over-IP module in communication with the audio data handler module, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the voice-over-IP module, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the voice-over-IP module and sends it to the at least one audio output port, and the voice-over-IP module sends and receives the audio over an IP connection.

42. The device of claim 39 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents audio file creation, the device further comprising an audio file creation module in communication with the audio data handler module, which accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the audio file creation module, which encodes the audio data and stores it in a file.

43. The device of claim 39 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents voice authentication and the device further comprises a voice authentication module responsive to the controller and in communication with the audio data handler to accept voice input for authentication.

44. The device of claim 39 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents voice navigation and the device further comprises a voice navigation module responsive to the controller and in communication with the audio data handler to accept voice input for voice navigation of at least a UI of the device.

45. The device of claim 37 further comprising a video module controlled by the controller and comprising a UI with a plurality of elements representing different video functions.

46. The device of claim 45 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents videoconferencing, the device further comprising a videoconferencing module in communication with the video module, the video module accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the telephone module, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the telephone module and sends it to the at least one audio output port, the telephone module sends and receives the audio over a telephone connection, and the videoconferencing module sends and receives the video with a videoconference.

47. The device of claim 45 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents video file creation, the device further comprising a video file creation module in communication with the video module, which accepts video input from the at least one video input port and sends it to the video file creation module, which encodes the video data and stores it in a file.

48. The device of claim 37 wherein the at least one networking port includes at least one wireless networking port that can selectively interact with a compatible wireless networking port of another device.

49. The device of claim 48 wherein the controller forms a wireless network between the device and at least one another device via the wireless networking port and the compatible wireless networking port.

50. The device of claim 49 further comprising collaboration software allowing the at least one another device to share data and selectively simultaneously manipulate such data.

51. The device of claim 50 wherein the collaboration software is based on at least an ITU-T H.323 standard.

52. The device of claim 37 wherein the at least one networking port comprises an Ethernet port and the controller selectively forms a network with another device via the Ethernet port and a compatible Ethernet port of the another device.

53. The device of claim 37 further comprising an optical disc drive that can accept user optical media and read data therefrom.

54. The device of claim 53 wherein the optical disc drive further comprises a burn mode in which the optical disc drive can burn data onto optical media.

55. The device of claim 54 wherein the optical media is user-supplied.

56. The device of claim 54 further comprising an optical media dispensary and at least one UI element offering a user the ability to purchase optical media onto which the user can have selected data burned.

57. The device of claim 37 further comprising a payment acceptance module.

58. The device of claim 57 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises an interface with an online payment service.

59. The device of claim 57 wherein the payment acceptance module comprise a currency acceptor.

60. The device of claim 57 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises a credit card reader and charge authorization module.

61. The device of claim 57 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises an interactive account creation and maintenance interface in which a user can create an account including payment information.

62. The device of claim 61 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises user authorization to use an existing account.

63. The device of claim 37 further comprising at least one video display device on which the controller displays UI elements to interact with users, as well as data requested for display by users.

64. The device of claim 63 wherein the controller displays advertisements on the at least one video display device during periods when the device is not in use.

65. The device of claim 63 wherein the at least one video display device comprises a touch sensitive display that is also a GUI input device.

66. A public access multifunction device comprising:

- a controller;
- a user interface (UI) running on the controller and comprising a plurality of UI elements with which a user can interact with the device;
- at least one display device on which UI elements and data can be displayed;
- at least one pointing device;
- at least one text entry device;
- marking, scanning, and fax transmission engines responsive to the controller;
- printing, scanning, copying, and faxing service modules in communication with the marking, scanning, and faxing engines and responsive to the controller;
- the printing service module receiving print data from the controller and employing the marking engine to produce hard copy of print data;
- the scanning service module receiving scanned data from the scanning engine and transmitting it to the controller;
- the copying service module accepting scanned data from the scanning engine and reproducing the scanned data with the marking engine to produce a hard copy of the scanning engine input;
- the fax module accepting input from the scanning engine and transmitting the scanning engine input as a fax via the fax transmission engine;
- at least one data port responsive to the controller through which the device can accept and transmit data, the at least one data port comprising:
 - at least one user detector;
 - at least one audio input port;
 - at least one audio output port;
 - at least one video input port;
 - at least one telephone service connection; and

at least one networking port;
an audio data handler module controlled by the controller and responsive to a UI with a plurality of elements representing different audio functions;
a storage medium responsive to the controller on which the device can store print and scanning data, as well as other files required for its operation.

67. The device of claim 66 wherein at least one of the UI elements represents telephone communication, the device further comprising a telephone module in communication with the audio data handler module and the telephone service connection, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the telephone module, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the telephone module and sends it to the at least one audio output port, and the telephone module sends and receives the audio over a telephone connection.

68. The device of claim 66 wherein at least one of the UI elements represents voice-over-IP communication, the device further comprising a voice-over-IP module in communication with the audio data handler module, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the voice-over-IP module, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the voice-over-IP module and sends it to the at least one audio output port, and the voice-over-IP module sends and receives the audio over an IP connection via the at least one networking port.

69. The device of claim 66 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents audio file creation, the device further comprising an audio file creation module in communication with the audio data handler module, which accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the audio file creation module, which encodes the audio data and stores it in a file.

70. The device of claim 66 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents voice authentication and the device further comprises a voice authentication module responsive to the controller and in communication with the audio data handler to accept voice input for authentication.

71. The device of claim 66 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents voice navigation and the device further comprises a voice navigation module responsive to the controller and in communication with the audio data handler to accept voice input for voice navigation of at least a UI of the device.

72. The device of claim 66 further comprising a camera and a video module in communication with the camera and controlled by the controller, the video module comprising a UI with a plurality of elements representing different video functions.

73. The device of claim 72 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents videoconferencing, the device further comprising a videoconferencing module in communication with the video module, the videoconferencing module accepts audio input from the at least one audio input port and sends it to the telephone module, the audio data handler module accepts audio input from the telephone module and sends it to the at least one audio output port, the telephone module sends and receives the audio over a telephone connection, and the videoconferencing module sends and receives the video with a videoconference.

74. The device of claim 72 wherein at least one of the plurality of UI elements represents video file creation, the device further comprising a video file creation module in communication with the video module, which accepts video input from the at least one video input port and sends it to the video file creation module, which encodes the video data and stores it in a file.

75. The device of claim 66 wherein the at least one networking port includes at least one wireless networking port that can selectively interact with a compatible wireless networking port of another device.

76. The device of claim 66 wherein the controller forms a network between the device and at least one another device via the at least one networking port and the compatible networking port of each device.

77. The device of claim 76 further comprising collaboration software allowing the at least one another device to share data and selectively simultaneously manipulate such data.

78. The device of claim 77 wherein the collaboration software is based on at least an ITU-T H.323 standard.

79. The device of claim 66 further comprising an optical disc drive that can accept user optical media and read data therefrom.

80. The device of claim 79 wherein the optical disc drive further comprises a burn mode in which the optical disc drive can burn data onto optical media.

81. The device of claim 80 further comprising an optical media dispensary and at least one UI element offering a user the ability to purchase optical media onto which the user can have selected data burned.

82. The device of claim 66 further comprising a payment acceptance module.

83. The device of claim 82 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises an interface with an online payment service.

84. The device of claim 82 wherein the payment acceptance module comprise a currency acceptor.

85. The device of claim 82 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises a credit card reader and charge authorization module.

86. The device of claim 82 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises an interactive account creation and maintenance interface in which a user can create an account including payment information.

87. The device of claim 86 wherein the payment acceptance module comprises user authorization to use an existing account.

88. The device of claim 66 wherein the at least one video display device comprises at least a main display and a secondary display.

89. The device of claim 66 wherein the controller displays advertisements on the at least one video display device during periods when the device is not in use.

90. The device of claim 66 wherein the at least one video display device comprises a touch sensitive display that is also a GUI input device.